

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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SUBJECT HUMAN RIGHTS - POPESCU CASE

REF: (A) USUN 3312 (B) USUN 3323

1. DEPT. AGREES WITH LINE TAKEN BY AMB. FERGUSON (PARA. 7,
REF. A) WITH COMITE FOR FAMILY REUNION.

2. IN ADDITION, YOU MAY WISH TO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS TO
COMITE:

A. USG APPRECIATES AND SYMPATHIZES WITH POPESCU'S
DESIRE TO BRING HIS WIFE TO THE US. IN CONTINUING EFFORTS
BOTH IN BILATERAL CONTACTS AND IN MULTILATERAL CONFERENCES
TO ENCOURAGE MORE LIBERAL POLICIES BY ROMANIA AND OTHER
COUNTRIES TOWARD THE GRANTING OF EXIT DOCUMENTATION TO
PEOPLE DESIRING TO JOIN CLOSE RELATIVES IN THE US, USG
CONSTANTLY EMPHASIZES PARTICULARLY THE COMPASSIONATE ASPECTS
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OF THE PROBLEM OF DIVIDED FAMILIES.

B. GIVEN THE FACT THAT POPESCU LEFT ROMANIA IN A WAY
CONSIDERED ILLEGAL BY ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES, GOR UNLIKELY
TO BE FORTHCOMING IN ALLOWING POPESCU'S WIFE TO JOIN HIM
IN THE US SOON, ASSUMING SHE WISHES TO DO SO. FURTHERMORE,
GOR VERY UNLIKELY TO TAKE FAVORABLE ACTION UNDER WHAT IT
MAY REGARD AS DURESS. OUR EXPERIENCE INDICATES THAT

TACTICS SUCH AS HIGHLY VISIBLE HUNGER STRIKE LIKELY TO
STRENGTHEN GOR DETERMINATION NOT TO APPEAR TO BE GIVING
IN UNDER PRESSURE.

C. WHEN, AS IN MRS. POPESCU'S CASE, EXIT DOCUMENTATION HAS APPARENTLY BEEN DENIED, WE NORMALLY RECOMMEND THAT APPLICANTS SUBMIT NEW APPLICATIONS AFTER A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME HAS ELAPSED AND PERIODICALLY THEREAFTER UNTIL THEIR REQUEST IS GRANTED. WE HAVE FOUND THAT POLITE PERSISTENCE OFTEN BRINGS EVENTUAL RESULTS.

3. FYI. WE HAVE BEEN CONSISTENTLY PRESSING GOR TO LIBERALIZE ITS EXIT POLICIES. IN JULY 1972 SECRETARY ROGERS, DURING HIS VISIT TO BUCHAREST, PRESENTED LISTS OF DUAL NATIONALS AND OTHER QUALIFIED IMMIGRANTS WHO HAVE US CITIZEN RELATIVES. SO FAR, WE HAVE HAD ONLY LIMITED SUCCESS IN OBTAINING MORE LIBERAL ACTION BY GOR ON THIS ISSUE, WHICH REMAINS A DIFFICULT ONE IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE JACKSON AMENDMENT. ROMANIANS HAVE MADE VERY CLEAR TO US IN EARLIER CASES OF THIS KIND THAT DEMONSTRATIVE ACTION WILL NOT BRING ABOUT DESIRED RESULTS AND THAT POPESCU'S BEST CHANCE LIES IN QUIET EFFORTS TO REGULARIZE HIS STATUS THROUGH THE ROMANIAN EMBASSY (I.E. BECOME A ROMANIAN CITIZEN PERMITTED TO LIVE IN THE US OR TO APPLY FOR RELINQUISHMENT OF ROMANIAN CITIZENSHIP). EVEN PRIOR TO RECEIPT REF. A DEPT. WAS IN TOUCH ON THIS CASE WITH ROMANIAN EMBASSY, WHICH TOOK SAME LINE AS ROMANIAN PERMREP TOOK WITH AMB. BENNETT. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES QUIET EFFORTS BY POPESCU WITH ROMANIAN CONSULATE AND BY POPESCU'S WIFE WITH AUTHORITIES IN ROMANIA, TO WHICH AT APPROPRIATE TIME WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE SUPPORT, APPEAR TO OFFER BEST

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CHANCE OF REUNITING THEM IN US.

4. COMITE FOR FAMILY REUNION FIRST CAME TO USG ATTENTION LAST MONTH WHEN A FEW DOZEN PERSONS OF ROMANIAN BACKGROUND TRAVELED FROM NEW YORK TO WASHINGTON FOR PURPOSE OF PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION ON BEHALF OF DIVIDED FAMILIES. AS FAR AS WE KNOW GROUP IS LOOSELY ORGANIZED AND HAS NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES OTHER THAN WASHINGTON

VISIT AND NOW POPESCU CASE. END FYI.

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